



RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
Aug 30 10 49 AM '04

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

MIKE GABBARD
COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 1
CHAIR, PARKS COMMITTEE
PH: (808) 547-7001 • FAX: (808) 550-6917
mgabbard@honolulu.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Editors/News Directors
FROM: Mike Gabbard 547-7001 or 779-2680

GABBARD LAUNCHES PETITION DRIVE

HONOLULU - August 30, 2004 - CITY COUNCILMEMBER MIKE GABBARD HAS launched a statewide petition drive to collect signatures urging the Honolulu City Council to repeal the City's mandatory leasehold conversion law. Gabbard recently introduced Bill 53 that would repeal the law put on the books by the City Council in 1991. The bill passed First Reading on August 11th and has been referred to the Budget Committee for a hearing.

This law has hurt the Native Hawaiian community, Queen Liliuokalani Trust, Kamehameha Schools, the Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, and many small landowners by unfairly using the government's condemnation powers to forcibly transfer land ownership from one private party to another.

"I introduced Bill 53 to repeal the mandatory leasehold conversion because it's the right thing to do", Gabbard said. "I want to see this set right before I leave the Council. I believe we have a window of opportunity to pass Bill 53, because the current City Council is open and favorable to the idea of repealing the leasehold conversion law. But this window will quickly shut and may never return".

"In the past, there has been up to a few hundred supporters who have gone down to the Council to testify in support of our cause. But this hasn't been enough to get the law repealed and it won't be sufficient this time, either. I want to show my colleagues on the Council that there is a TIDAL WAVE of support for the repeal of Chapter 38. One of the most crucial parts of that tidal wave will be this massive petition effort."

"I encourage everyone from across the state to sign this petition and circulate it amongst your friends, Gabbard said. "Working together in the spirit of aloha and kupuno — standing up for what's right, we can get Bill 53 passed out on Final Reading at the October 13th City Council meeting."

Copies of the petition are available by calling Gabbard's office at 547-7001 or by emailing mgabbard@honolulu.gov. Mike Gabbard represents City Council District 1 that includes Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Honokai Hale, Ko Olina, and the entire Wai'anae Coast.